

## Agenda Item 9

**SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION**  
**March 25, 2004**

05  
 Resolution No. 04-~~XX~~

**A Resolution to Augment the Proposition 12 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant  
 to the City of Culver City for the  
 Ballona Creek Water Quality Improvement Project**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission hereby:

ADOPTS the staff report dated March 25, 2004 for this item; and

AUTHORIZES that the grant to the City of Culver City for the above stated project be amended to award \$142,320 additional dollars under the provisions of the Proposition 12 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant Program.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Jack Weiss  
 Chair, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

Post-it Fax Note	7671	Date	6/14/04	# of pages	2
To	Marc Beyerle	From	Guangya Wang		
Co./Dept.	Coastal Commission	Co.	SMRRC		
Phone #	(510) 286-4172	Phone #	(510) 576-6659		
Fax #	(510) 286-6470	Fax #			



March 25, 2004

TO: SMBRC Governing Board

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 9.** Consideration of a resolution authorizing an amendment to a Proposition 12 grant to increase the grant award to the City of Culver City for installation of a storm water quality improvement (trash reduction) project in the Ballona Creek watershed.

320 W. Fourth Street  
2nd Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
213/576-6615  
Fax 213/576-6646  
www.santamonibay.org

**Recommendation:** That the Governing Board approve the resolution to augment the grant award.


#### **Background**

In April 2001 the SMBRP Bay Watershed Council awarded \$168,500 to the City of Culver City for a project to improve water quality in Ballona Creek through installation of a Continuous Deflective Separation (CDS) unit to trap gross solids and remove oil and grease. The unit will be installed at a storm drain location near the Overland Ave. Bridge. The project scope also includes collaboration with the Santa Monica BayKeeper for outreach to the local community about the benefits of the proposed project and for water quality monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of the project.

An agreement between Culver City and the State Coastal Conservancy was executed in February 2002 for design and construction of the project. The City hired a consultant to design the CDS system and work with the County, which owns the storm drain, for review and approval of the design and construction plan.

During the course of the plan check in late 2002 and early 2003, the County required additional components to the design that were not anticipated during the initial planning stage of the project. These components included a diversion trough, a transition structure and an outlet structure. As a result, when the City bid the construction of the unit, it found that the construction costs greatly exceeded the original estimate.

The City informed the SMBRC and Coastal Conservancy about the funding shortfall in July 2003. Per staff recommendation, Culver City staff contacted Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LAC-DPW) for additional funding. However, the County was not able to provide supplemental funding to the project. Culver City was able to secure an additional \$20,000 towards the implementation of the project.

  
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actions and partnerships that  
improve water quality,  
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the Bay's benefits and values.*



### Analysis

In November 2003, the City formally submitted a request for additional funds. After reviewing the request, Commission staff asked the City for more detailed budget information and justification. A joint meeting was held between Culver City, LA County Public Works Department and the Commission staff to jointly review the project. City and County staff were requested to address Commission staff concerns with regard to the project's rationale, siting considerations, and justification for the increased cost estimate. A finding was made that:

- The project is located in a high priority area for control of pollutant loading in the watershed. The proposed CDS unit will capture pollutants of concern from a relatively large catchment basin which includes multiple family and commercial land uses known to have high potential for contributing pollutants.
- The proposed project does not overlap or in conflict with pollution control projects either upstream of or elsewhere in the watershed.
- The increased cost estimate is reasonable and justifiable when compared with the cost of projects in similar scale.

### Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that an augmentation of \$142,320 Proposition 12 funds be approved for this project and that the City's contract with the Coastal Conservancy be amended accordingly. In addition to the augmentation of the construction cost, this recommendation includes an additional \$20,000 to Santa Monica BayKeeper for post-construction monitoring. The BayKeeper has already collected a year-long series of pre-construction baseline data at the project site. The proposed post-construction monitoring will provide valuable information on the effectiveness of this project.

### Project Budget Summary

	Initial Award	Augmentation	Total Budget
Project Design	\$16,320	\$0	\$16,320
Construction	\$143,680	\$116,320	\$260,000
Construction Contingency		\$26,000	\$26,000
Monitoring (BayKeeper)	\$13,500	\$20,000	\$33,500
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>\$173,500</b>	<b>\$162,320</b>	<b>\$335,820</b>
City Match	-\$5,000	-\$20,000	-\$25,000
<b>Total Amount Requested</b>	<b>\$168,500</b>	<b>\$142,320</b>	<b>\$310,820</b>

**Agenda Item 10.**

**SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION  
March 25, 2004**

**Resolution No. 04-06**

**Resolution to award a grant of Proposition 12 funds to the Ballona Wetlands Foundation and Loyola Marymount University for Phase I of the Ballona Outdoor Learning and Discovery (BOLD) project**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Board of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission hereby:

1. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated March 25, 2004 for this item; and
2. **AUTHORIZES AWARD** of up to \$381,700 of Proposition 12 funds to the Ballona Wetlands Foundation and Loyola Marymount University for Phase I of the Ballona Outdoor Learning and Discovery (BOLD) project.
3. **REQUIRES** grantees to cooperate fully with responsible agencies and seek broad public input/involvement to ensure that the project is consistent with restoration goals and objectives for the entire Ballona Wetlands area.
4. **REQUIRES** grantee to submit a report to the Governing Board for approval upon completion of the feasibility/baseline assessment (budgeted at \$65,000) prior to proceeding to the subsequent tasks of the project.

BY: 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Weiss  
Chair, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission



March 25, 2004

TO: SMBRC Governing Board

Subject: **Agenda Item 10.** Resolution to award a grant of Proposition 12 funds to the Ballona Wetlands Foundation and Loyola Marymount University for Phase I of the Ballona Outdoor Learning and Discovery (BOLD) project

320 W. Fourth Street  
2nd Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
213/576-6615  
Fax 213/576-6646  
www.santamonicabay.org

**Recommendation: That the Governing Board approve the resolution to award up to \$381,700 of Proposition 12 funds for Phase I of the Ballona Outdoor Learning and Discovery (BOLD) project.**

#### Background

The Ballona Wetlands Foundation (BWF) and Loyola Marymount University (LMU) has submitted a funding request to the SMBRC for a collaborative project known as Ballona Outdoor Learning and Discovery (BOLD). The overall vision for BOLD is to showcase the various habitats found at the Ballona Wetlands for education and research purposes. The applicants propose to conduct BOLD on an approximately eight-acre parcel at the southwestern corner of the Ballona Wetlands, which is designated for the BOLD project under a licensing agreement between the Playa Capital Company, LLC and the Ballona Wetlands Foundation.

  
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An initial concept design stage was completed by a team of LMU faculty and students which determined that the site could potentially consist of four restored habitats—tidal channels, intertidal mud banks, salt marsh and coastal sage (Figure 1). This concept also includes the possibility of establishing a tidal channel that would be connected to the adjacent wetlands. Native plants would replace non-native vegetation currently present on the site.

#### Project Summary

The proposed BOLD project includes educational, research and habitat restoration benefits. During and after the project implementation, school children, university students and the general public would be able to visit the site to learn first-hand about the natural and cultural history and ecological significance of the Ballona Wetlands. Educational information will also be available to the public over a network of trails on which signs and kiosks are strategically positioned.

The area will include research plots where scientists could study wetland processes and restoration techniques. Research conducted at the BOLD site will contribute to our knowledge on the viability and sustainability of the





regional habitats, and on their contributing capacity to cleanup contaminants in the watershed. Results can be used to determine and prioritize the most effective restoration techniques during the restoration plan development process.

It is also envisioned that early implementation of BOLD will assist responsible agencies to solidify public support in development and implementation of a comprehensive restoration plan for the entire wetlands. Through the various educational outreach activities conducted under BOLD, the public will understand, appreciate, and hopefully, become stewards of the Ballona Wetlands. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to work together to restore a unique and beautiful place for native animals and plants to thrive and for people to visit and learn.

The applicants propose to implement BOLD in multiple phases: At this time, the applicants are requesting funding from the SMBRC for the feasibility assessment, design and permitting phase which involves the following elements:

- Baseline Assessment – Collect and evaluate data regarding soil characteristics, hydrology, biology, wetland delineation, and cultural resources. Assess and determine the feasibility of the preliminary design concepts.
- Plan Preparation – Identify constraints/opportunities that affect location of design elements; prepare earthwork calculations and grading plan; prepare landscape, irrigation and interpretive design plans. Prepare draft construction plans and cost estimates for construction monitoring and erosion control plans.
- Permitting – Prepare and secure the necessary CEQA/NEPA documents and permit applications.
- Plan Implementation – Prepare bidding specifications for a construction contract that implements the plan design and develop final timeline for subsequent Phases of the project.

*Final Plans*

#### Analysis

While completion of a comprehensive plan for restoration of the entire Ballona Wetlands area is several years away, the proposed BOLD project would be an excellent opportunity to take early action on restoration activities in the wetlands. In addition to its educational opportunities, it is envisioned that the area would include research plots where scientists could study wetlands processes and restoration techniques.

Restoration of Ballona Wetlands is one of the top priorities of the 1995 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan and in 2003 was also adopted as a high priority for funding through the SMBRC's bond funding programs. Implementation of this project is therefore consistent with the Bay Restoration Plan and project funding goals of the Commission.

Staff has visited the proposed project site and worked with the applicants to refine the work plan. The applicants have developed and submitted a draft work plan which provides detailed description of scope and budget for the design and permitting phase of the proposed project. The table below provides a summary of the proposed budget. The draft work plan is summarized above, and is available upon request.